

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SP-02 H-01 INR-10 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T DOHA 919

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, UNSC, PINT, LE, IS, SY

SUBJECT: LEBANON-CONTINUING EFFORTS TO DIFFUSE CRISIS

REF: STATE 172481

1. JULY 11, 5:00 P.M., WAS FIRST OPPORTUNITY CHARGE WAS ACCORDED TO MAKE PRESENTATION TO APPROPRIATE GOQ OFFICIAL ISSA AL-KAWARI, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CHIEF OF CABINET OF AMIR KHALIFA AND DE FACTO FOREIGN MINISTER DURING THE CONTINUED ABSENCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, SHAYKH SUHAYM.

2. IN MY PRESENTATION ALONG THE LINES OUTLINED REFTTEL AND ITS REFERENCES, I EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF FORESTALLING THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT SARKIS AND KEEPING HIM IN THE PRESIDENCY TOGETHER WITH MAINTAINING AN EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE. AL-KAWARI WAS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH OUR LINE OF ACTION AND HE SAID HE COULD SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING SARKIS IN THE PRESIDENCY, AS WITH HIS RESIGNATION CHAOS WILL REIGN AND THE SITUATION WILL GET OUT OF HAND. AT THE SAME TIME HE MENTIONED THAT THE PHALANGISTS WERE TRYING TO PARTITION THE COUNTRY AND SET THEIR OWN STATE. AT THIS POINT I ASSURED HIM OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON AND THAT WAS WHY I WAS THERE ASKING THEIR ASSISTANCE IN THIS RESPECT, BY APPROACHING THEIR SISTER ARAB COUNTRY, SYRIA, AND ASKING THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND RESTRAINT

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DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE MINISTER REPLIED EAGERLY THAT THEY WILL TRY TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WITHIN THEIR MEANS TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY THEY CAN. AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE SAID, THE AMIR HAS CALLED IN OUR AMBASSADOR (QATARI) IN DAMASCUS FOR CONSULTATIONS AND AT THE MOMENT HS IS NEXT DOOR WITH THE AMIR DISCUSSING THIS SAME MATTER. HE SAID IF I DIDN'T MIND WAITING HE WOULD GO IN AND TELL THE AMIR THAT I WAS IN HIS OFFICE AND THE PURPOSE OF MY

VISIT AND ASK IF HE (THE AMIR) HAD ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO CONVEY TO
USG.

3. AFTER A WAIT OF ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES HE CAME BACK AND TOLD ME
THE AMIR SAID THAT THEY WERE ALREADY EXTENDING THEIR EFFORTS ALONG
THE SAME LINES AS WE WERE AND THAT THE AMIR WAS INSTRUCTING HIS
AMBASSADOR TO GO BACK TO DAMASCUS AND MEET WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD
AND URGE HIM TO SHOW MORE RESTRAINT AND TO EXPRESS THEIR
(QATARI) WISHES TO SEEK SARKIS STAY IN THE PRESIDENCY. ALSO, THE
MINISTER SAID THAT THE AMIR WAS INSTRUCTING THEIR CHARGE IN
BEIRUT TO CALL ON PRESIDENT SARKIS AND URGE HIM NOT TO RESIGN.

4. AL-KAWARI REITERATED HIS ASSURANCES THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE
TO WORK TOWARDS PEACE IN LEBANON AND ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
AND THE HOPE THAT RESTRAINT FROM ALL SIDES WILL PREVAIL AND AN
EQUITABLE SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND.

COMMENT: I BELIEVE THE DELAY IN GRANTING ME THE APPOINTMENT WAS
VERY OPPORTUNE IN THE FACT THAT IT TOOK PLACE AT THE TIME WHEN
THE AMIR WAS DISCUSSING WITH HIS AMBASSADOR THE SAME TOPIC I
HAD COME TO PRESENT TO GOQ. I FEEL THAT MY VISIT HAD SOMETHING
TO DO WITH THE AMIR'S INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS AMBASSADOR AND
INTENDED INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS CHARGE IN BEIRUT. END COMMENT.
JABBOUR

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MR. MCCALLIE.

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